Portable Document Format

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Portable Document Format (**PDF**) is a file format used to represent documents in a manner independent of application software, hardware, and operating systems.[1] Each PDF file encapsulates a complete description of a fixed-layout flat document, including the text, fonts, graphics, and other information needed to display it. In 1991, Adobe Systems co-founder John Warnock outlined a system called "Camelot"[2] that evolved into PDF.

While Adobe Systems made the PDF specification available free of charge in 1993, PDF remained a proprietary format, controlled by Adobe, until it was officially released as an open standard on July 1, 2008, and published by the International Organization for Standardization as ISO 32000-1:2008.[3][4] In 2008, Adobe published a Public Patent License to ISO 32000-1 granting royalty-free rights for all patents owned by Adobe that are necessary to make, use, sell and distribute PDF compliant implementations.[5]

Portable Document Format

Adobe PDF icon

Filename extension	.pdf
Internet media type	application/pdf application/x-pdf application/x-bzpdf
	application/x-gzpdf
Type code	'PDF ' (including a single space)
Uniform Type Identifier	com.adobe.pdf
Magic number	%PDF
Developed by	Adobe Systems
Initial release	1993
Latest release	1.7
Extended to	PDF/A, PDF/E, PDF/UA, PDF/VT, PDF/X
Standard(s)	ISO 32000
Website	Adobe PDF Reference Archives (http://www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/pdf_reference_archive.html)

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